

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARKEY STATEMENT ON SWEARING IN OF CHERTOFF AS SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Focus on Hazmat Shipment, Cargo Security Needed

Washington, DC: Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, today issued the following statement in reaction to the swearing-in of Michael Chertoff to be the new Secretary of Homeland Security.

“Mr. Chertoff faces an enormous job to immediately close the glaring homeland security loopholes that the Bush Administration has thus far refused to close: Ensuring that meaningful security measures, including re-routing, are implemented for shipments of extremely hazardous materials such as chlorine; requiring that all cargo placed on passenger planes is inspected before it is loaded onboard; mandating that the chemical and nuclear industries adequately secure their facilities against penetration by terrorists; and equipping our ports with operational radiation detectors to screen all incoming cargo for nuclear materials. The Bush Administration must take action now to close these dangerous security gaps, and I hope that Mr. Chertoff will persuade the Administration of the urgent need to make these long overdue security upgrades so that our nation is as secure as it should be.”